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ABSTRACT

One of a series of profiles prepared by the Cooperative Educational Abstracting Service, this brief outline provides basic background information on educational principles, system of administration, structure and organization, curricula, and teacher training in Bahrain. Statistics provided by the Unesco Office of Statistics show enrollment at all levels, from preprimary to adult; number of teachers, including vocational education at the secondary level; population by age groups; public expenditure on education; and educational indicators by subject (level enrollment ratios, education at the third level and the enrollment in natural and applied sciences, third level graduates, public expenditure as a percentage of budget and of GNP, and the adult illiteracy rate). The organization chart under the Minister of Education is included. For a description on the general nature of the Country Education Profiles, and for a list of related documents see SO 005 686. (JMB)

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Country Education Profiles

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION
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Date of issue: June 1972

Country: BAHRAIN

General principles

Education is free at all levels of the national system which includes primary, intermediate, secondary and higher education (teacher training colleges). There is no compulsory education at present. Health services are provided free of charge. Higher education is also free in the sense that the Bahrain Government grants scholarships to selected students. Selection is based on students' ability and the country's needs, priority being given to those interested in technical and scientific fields or teacher training. Bahraini culture is basically Islamic. Girls and boys are educated separately.

System of administration

The administrative system is centralized. The central authorities have responsibilities ranging from appointing teachers to approving curricula and textbooks. The structure of the administrative system and the functions of the various departments are shown in diagram A.

Structure and organization

The fiscal year begins in January; the school year lasts from October to June. The school day at primary, intermediate and secondary levels lasts five hours. Preschool education, for children between the ages of 4 and 6 years, is private.

At age 6 plus, children may enter primary school, which has a duration of six years. Subject to satisfactory attendance, promotion is automatic for the first three years. Simplified public examinations are given in the last three years.

There are two years of intermediate education, which is of a general type. It is planned to extend this level of education to three years in 1974/75, however, and to make both primary and intermediate education compulsory.

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Intermediate school leavers may enrol in the general, commercial or technical stream of secondary education, which lasts three years. At higher education level, there are two teacher training colleges, one for men and the other for women, offering a two year course preparing teachers for the primary and intermediate levels. Admission requirements are a secondary general certificate and a satisfactory interview and medical examination. University studies are provided abroad, subject to the scholarship regulations which cover government scholarships and also grants awarded to Bahraini students by friendly governments.

Curricula

At secondary level, students spend three years studying in the stream of their choice.

1. *General stream:* arts, science and mathematics are taught in the first year, while in the remaining two, students are grouped by choice in two branches: scientific or literary. Both lead to the Secondary General Certificate. Top students are granted government scholarships for further education abroad.

2. *Commercial stream:* prepares mainly for clerical jobs. Besides the general subjects of Islamic Religion, Arabic and English languages, and social studies, its curriculum includes commercial subjects, i.e. book-keeping, mathematics, economics, business training (Arabic and English) and typing (Arabic and English).

3. *Technical stream:* prepares middle-level technicians in the following trades: blacksmithing, welding, foundry and pattern-making, carpentry, radio and television, electricity, fitting and machine-shop with auto-mechanics, refrigeration, diesel engines. Students achieving good results are granted government scholarships for further education abroad.

Religious education is provided at the Religious Institute for all three levels. The curriculum follows that of Al-Azhar University (Egypt) with the addition of some other subjects such as English language, mathematics and hygiene.

There are two afternoon vocational centres providing part-time training in a total 600 hours in basic engineering skills, in welding and blacksmithing, electrical work radio and television, refrigeration, machine shop, garage (petrol/diesel), carpentry, foundry.

Teacher training

There are three main parts to the curriculum: general subjects, *viz.*, Islamic culture, Arabic and English languages, Arab world studies, arts, physical education, hygiene and social development; educational subjects, *viz.*, educational psychology, development psychology, school curriculum and teaching methods in which students receive both theoretical and practical instruction; specialist subject, chosen from among the following: science and mathematics, Arabic language and Islamic religion, English language and literature, geography and history, physical education and hygiene, and arts. Girls also may major in domestic science.

The teachers' salary scale is based on educational qualifications, responsibility of post, seniority and personal ability. Under-qualified teachers have to attend in-service evening courses in education and teaching methods.

STATISTICS : BAHRAIN

(Source : Unesco Office of Statistics)

Estimated population 1970..... : 215 000

Area (Km2)..... : 598

Inhabitants per Km2..... : 360

1. ENROLMENT

Level of education	1965	1969	1970
Pre-primary			
MF.....	162	969	1 097
F	...	...	...
First level			
MF.....	1) 31 579	1) 36 612	1) 36 113
F	1) 12 273	1) 15 022	1) 15 523
Second level			
MF.....	7 048	1) 13 051	13 609
F	2 208	5 144	5 569
Third level			
MF.....	-	310	...
F	-	145	...
Special education			
MF.....	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
Adult education			
MF.....	585	* 459	...
F	39	* 280	...

1) Public education only.

2. TEACHERS

Level of education	1965	1969	1970
Pre-primary			
MF	...	47	...
F	...	47	...
First level			
MF	1) 1 168	1 547	2) 2 169
F	1) 487	687	2) 927
Second level			
MF	479	831	...
F	120	319	...
Third level			
MF	-	40	...
F	-	14	...
Special education			
MF	-	-	-
F	-	-	-
Adult education			
MF	44	...	...
F	7	...	...

1) Public education only

2) Including general and vocational education, at the second level.

3. POPULATION

In thousands

Population by age groups	1965		1970	
	Total	Female	Total	Female
Total population	185.0	91.4	215.0	106.4
0 - 4	34.0	16.7	40.0	19.7
5 - 14	49.2	24.2	56.8	28.0
15 - 19	19.0	9.3	22.3	11.0
20 - 24	16.0	7.9	18.8	9.2

4. PUBLIC EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION

Currency : Dinar

In thousands

Item	1965	1969	1970
Exchange rate in US $	2.10	2.10	2.10
Public expenditure on education			
Total	2 297	3 377	3 752
Recurring	2 127	3 208	3 368
Capital	170	169	84

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT

Subject	1965	1969	1) 1970
Level enrolment ratios			
First and second levels combined (age group : 6-16)	80	91	86
First level (age group : 6-11)	107	110	106
Second level (age group : 12-16)	38	60	61
Third level (age group : 20-24)	-	1.70	...

1) Public education only.

Subject	1965	1969	1970
Education at the third level : Natural and applied sciences +/ as a percentage of total enrolment	-	8.7	...
Third level graduates per 10 000 inhabitants aged 20-24	-	58.2	...

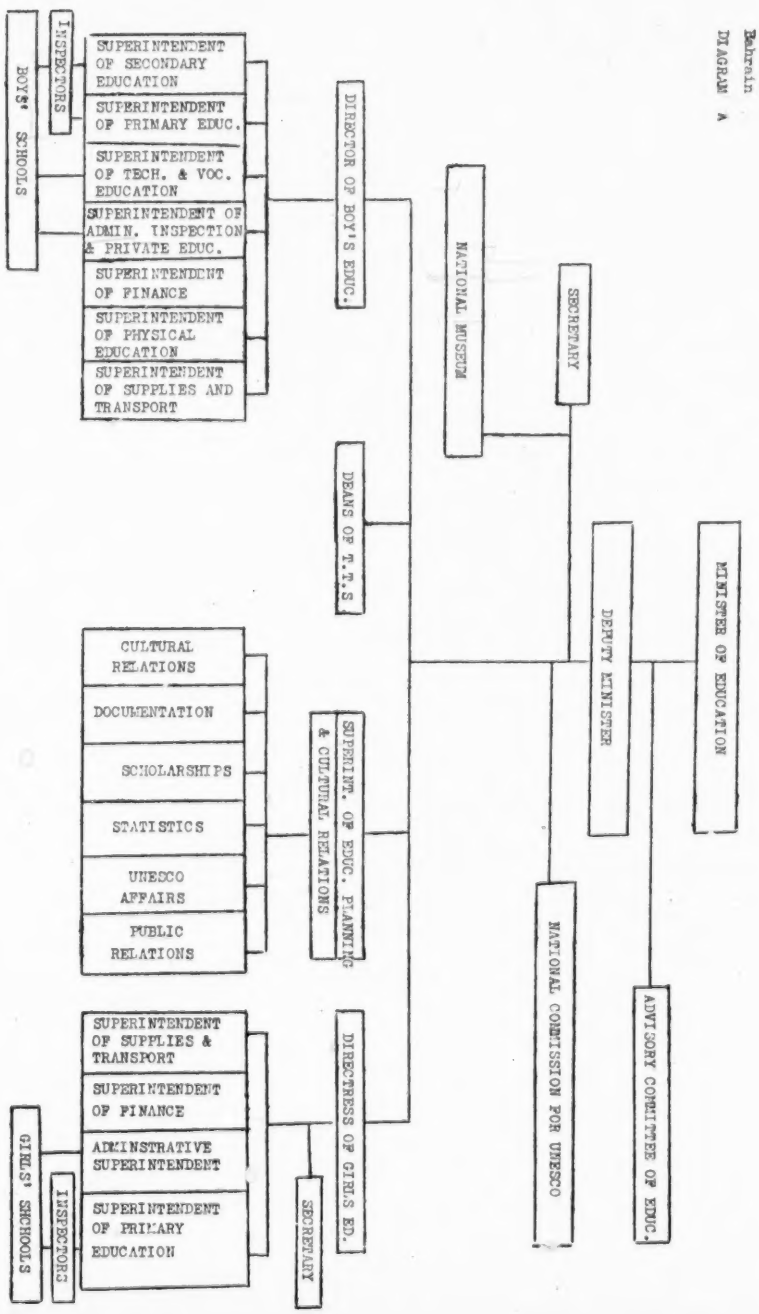
+/ Natural and applied sciences (i.e. Natural sciences, Engineering, Medical Science and agriculture).

5. EDUCATIONAL INDICATORS BY SUBJECT (Cont'd)

Subject	1965	1969	1970
Public expenditure on education			
as a % of Budget	22.4	25.4	20.0
as a % of GNP	...	...	...
Public and private expenditure on education as a % of GNP	...	...	...

Subject	1959	1965
Adult illiteracy rate		
(population 16 years and over for 1959		
(population 15 years and over for 1965)		
Total	74.7	71.5
Male	65.5	63.9
Female	86.6	81.8

Bahrain
DIAGRAM A



Bahrain — Diagram B